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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BRAZIL

IPF:(1987-91) $17 500 000

(BRA/90/021) - Integrated System for Fire Prevention (PREVFOGO)

Date of approval:	3 December 1990
Expected duration:	18 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Government cost sharing:	$660 200 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$620 200

Project background

The burning of tropical forests in Brazil has been the subject of intense international concern in recent years. In 1987, the peak year for burning in the Amazon forest, 20 million hectares were burned. International and national concern and action have slowed the burning, largely due to the withdrawal of government fiscal incentives to settlers and big land owners and to increased government surveillance and control of unauthorized fires. However, the country lacks a national programme for fire management and forest fire control.

The Brazilian Government recognizes the magnitude of the problem of burning in the forests and the "cerrado" scrublands and is making efforts to mitigate it. IBAMA, which is the executive branch of the national Secretariat for the Environment (SEMAM), created the National Programme for the Prevention and Combat of Forest Fires and Burning (PREVFOGO) in 1989.

PREVFOGO aims to set up a network of institutions already dealing with some component of fire prevention and control in order to make optimal use of material, human and financial resources. The network will include, inter alia, the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE) which will provide a remote sensing system for detecting fires over broad areas; a National Center for Fire Control and Prevention, which is developing a Fire Contingency Plan to provide a structure for fire management policy and implementation; and the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and universities for ecological studies to support policy development.

In addition, the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and IBAMA signed an agreement in April 1991 for a co-operative programme to promote scientifically-based fire management in both Brazil and the United States.

The institutional structure of the PREVFOGO programme will include: the National Center at IBAMA Headquarters in Brasilia; the National Commission for Forestry Fire and Burning Prevention and Control; and state centers and regional or municipal centers, composed of fire departments and fire fighting facilities and equipment.

PREVFOGO will have two stages: the initial implantation and structuring phase, with a planned duration of 18 months; and the operational stage, unlimited in duration. UNDP assistance is requested for the first stage.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish an integrated system for the monitoring of forestry burning and fire; (b) create an action strategy aimed at the prevention and control of forestry burning and fire in the country, especially inside IBAMA Conservation Units; (c) obtain technical-scientific responses to assist in the prevention, control and combat to forestry burning and fire; and (d) develop and train human resources in the prevention and combat to forestry fires and burnings.

Inputs

UNDP will provide through the Government, staff; equipment and non-expendable material; data on burning focal points and meteorology, travel expenses and facilities on the part of the National Center, the 10 State Centers and the Regional and Municipal Centers. The latter will have staff on duty 24 hours/day during the critical six fire months (June to November) with assistance from volunteer brigades.

In the National Center, the project director will be a high-level technician. The Operation and Training Unit will be composed of three high-level and one medium-level technician. The Monitoring and Control Unit will be composed of three high-level and five medium-level technicians. Equipment will include computer, mapping, communications, and audio-visual equipment, as well as fire combat kits and watchtower infrastructure.

Financial data

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Personnel	617 500
Equipment	33 700
Miscellaneous	9 000
Total	660 200

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